Tax collection on crude oil import

†1256. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's tax collection on import of crude oil during the first nine months of the current year is more than the collection during the first nine months of the last year; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tax collection on import of crude oil during the first nine months of the current year (2002-2003) and corresponding period of last year are Rs. 4848* crore and Rs. 3803* crore respectively. During this period, the tax collection on import of crude oil has shown the increase of Rs. 1045* crore in 2002-2003 over 2001-2002. This increase is registered due to substantial growth in quantity and international price of imported crude oil during current year over respective period of last year. The marginal increase in exchange rate during said period was also a factor affecting the revenue collection from imported crude oil.

*The figures are provisional.

Levy of ATF sales tax on domestic airlines

1257. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign airlines are exempted from levy of duties and taxes on fuel uplifted from and through India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Air India and Indian Airlines have to pay the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) sales tax;

(c) if so, the reasons for variance; and

(d) what steps are being taken not to levy the ATF sales tax on both the domestic airlines too?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) By virtue of a notification issued under the provisions of section 3 of the Foreign Aircraft (Exemption from Taxes and Duties on Fuel and Lubricants) Act, 2002, the fuels and lubricants filled into receptacles of aircrafts of any foreign country, which is a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation or which has entered into Air Services Agreements with India, operating scheduled or non-scheduled international air services to or from India, shall be exempted from levy of all taxes & duties in India, whether levied by the Central Government or State Government as the case may be.

(b) and (c) Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) do not come under the purview of the above-mentioned notification as the Foreign Aircraft (Exemption from Taxes & Duties on Fuel & Lubricants) Act, 2002 was enacted under Article 253 of the Constitution of India to meet India's obligations arising out of the bilateral Air Services Agreements with various countries and the Chicago convention. As such, AI and IA are required to pay sales tax on ATF uplifted by them for their international as well as domestic operations.

(d) As per Entry 54 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, sales tax on ATF is a State subject and the Union Government has no power to legislate in this regard.

Loans sanctioned to SCs/STs

1258. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan sanctioned by Banks and Financial Institutions during the period 1995-96 to 2002-2003 year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the percentage of total loan sanctioned in favour of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes applicants during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) State-wise details of Gross Bank Credit by all Scheduled Commercial Banks from March, 1995 till September, 2002 (latest available) is given in Annexure